



NOTES FROM THE:

Standard Systems Group

by Lt Col John H. Gill

It was with extreme pleasure when I wrote my first article for the January 1998 Air Force Comptroller magazine as the Chief, Financial Management and Comptroller Systems Division. Due to time constraints, and my recent arrival in this position, I did not have an opportunity to introduce myself. I assumed the division chief duties in July 1997, upon my reassignment from the AFMC/IG at Wright-Patterson AFB OH. My goal is to continue the best possible support to our customers and users in the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) and at Air Force locations worldwide. I took the reins of the division during a very exciting time. The Standard Systems Group (SSG) has gone through a major restructure during the last nine months, including the stand up of the Financial Information Systems Program Office (SPO). The SPO encompasses all the systems HQ SSG/SBF was previously responsible for plus those financial applications at the Materiel Systems Group (MSG), Financial Systems Division, Wright-Patterson AFB OH. Mr Richard DeNezza, formerly the MSG Executive Director, has been appointed as our SPO Director, and I as the Deputy. In addition to the stand up of the SPO, HQ SSG is in the process of establishing a Software Factory operation to increase efficiencies and reduce costs. While this will change the way we do business at SSG, we anticipate significant improvements in both our software production process and our level of support to our customers and end users. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on major efforts underway in our Materiel Systems area.

Materiel Systems. The Standard Materiel Accounting System (SMAS) Development Team is proceeding on-schedule with the modernization and technology insertion project. The purpose of this project is to migrate SMAS from a UNYSIS proprietary application to an open system application running on an HP 9000 using an ORACLE relational database system. The presentation layer or user-interface will be a graphical-user interface (GUI) developed by government personnel using the Powerbuilder Development Tool. The conversion/migration of the server business logic and database will be accomplished by Information Analysis, Inc., a Virginia-based contractor. The HP 9000 hardware will be located at one or more of the DISA Defense megacenters. The modernized system will be Y2K and DII-COE compliant. A prototype of the SMAS

funds-control module was implemented at the Limestone Operating Location (OPLOC) in March 1998. This prototype will give the Accounting and Finance technician experience in point and click technology, as well as allow the SMAS development team to monitor and track system performance. Feedback from the users in the field will be invaluable to the success of our development effort. The modernized SMAS system will take advantage of the capabilities provided by the SSG Center for Electronic Distribution of Systems (CEDS). This will allow the SMAS user to download client software directly from the SMAS distribution page. This web page is linked to the SMAS Home Page and will provide information on who downloads software, download instructions and AF Form 636, and the release products. Download capability will be available to the Limestone OPLOC to download prototype release and will be available to additional SMAS users in summer 1998. Implementation of the SMAS Open System Environment (OSE) is scheduled to be completed 31 December 1998.

The consolidation of the Stock Fund Wholesale Divisions of the Air Force Defense Business Operations Fund became more logical with the reductions that were occurring in the Cost of Operations Division (COD) and the decrease in the number of items managed by the Systems Support Division (SSD). With the completion of the Consumable Item Transfer (CIT) of SSD items to Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) in FY98, it makes sense to turn off the SSD requirements system and consolidate SSD with the Repairable Support Division (RSD) in the one system. Since COD is the division that supports the overhead of the SSD and RSD, it is included in the consolidation process. The new division will be called the Material Support Division (MSD).

The consolidation was directed by SAF/FMBM letter dated 3 August 1995. The consolidation was to be completed by 1 October 1997. The objectives of MSD were:

- The creation of one budget for the MSD.
 - The creation of one set of financial statements.
 - Establishment of a single requirements system.
 - The creation of a multiple pricing mechanism.
 - Establishment of one budget code/accounting appropriation.
- (Continued on Page 33) ➡